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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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REPORT ON THE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF YUGOSLAVIA

From Minister Colakovic's speech at the People's Skupstina on the occasion of the Debate on the Budget for 1949.

After announcing that the budget for the Ministry of Science and Culture for 1949 amounts to 1,042,623,000 dinars, and after requesting the Skupstina to approve it, Minister Colakovic said among other things:

In 1947, the sum of 3,653,000,000 dinars was budgeted for the needs of education and culture; in 1948, this sum amounted to 6,728,000,000 dinars, and in 1949, the amount has risen to 8,625,000,000 dinars.

One of the most important of the cultural and educational problems which had to be solved after the war was the elimination of illiteracy. From the time of the liberation of the country to May 1948, according to incomplete reports, 1,560,000 persons learned to read and write. In less than 2 full years of the Plan, 1,030,000 persons learned to read and write, which in proportion to the task set -- the complete elimination of illiteracy -- represents a realization of about 50 percent.

The Yugoslav Army and the People's Youth of Yugoslavia have an important role in the elimination of illiteracy.

During 1947 and the first half of 1948 alone, 122,260 soldiers on active duty in the Yugoslav Army learned to read and write. In the course of the work of the Peoples' Youth on only three of the large Youth building projects (Samac-Sarajevo line, the Brotherhood and Unity Highway between Belgrade and Zagreb, and New Belgrade) 7,600 of the youth learned to read and write.

- 1 -

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The development of education in Yugoslavia is showing a constant increase in both the number of schools and the number of pupils. The 4-year primary schools still represent the mass type of primary schooling in Yugoslavia. In the 1947-48 school year, there were 10,052 primary schools with over 1,600,000 pupils, and in 1948-49, there are 12,562 schools with about the same number of pupils. The increase in the number of primary schools since the war can be realized only when compared with the number of primary schools before the war, which in 1938-39 totaled 8,956 schools. According to this, the index of increase totals 40 percent.

In 1947-48 there were 1,139 seven-year schools and lower and higher gymnasias, and in 1948-49 there are 1,294.

The total number of pupils of the 7-year schools and lower and higher gymnasias increased from 310,185 in 1947-48 to 364,234 in 1948-49 that is, by 17 percent.

Considering the fact that 90,000 persons are to be enrolled in the intermediate technical schools by the end of the Five-Year Plan, the course of instruction in the intermediate technical schools has been shortened to 3 years. This shortening of the program has considerably affected the quality of the personnel so that it will be necessary to reintroduce the 4-year and, in some instances, a 5-year course of technical instruction during the next school year. Beside this, it will be necessary to link instruction in the technical schools more closely with industry and with the needs of our economic development. For example, as yet we do not have intermediate technical schools for the petroleum industry or for the mechanization of agriculture, which are indispensable to the future development of Yugoslavia.

Great attention is devoted also to the training of skilled labor, which serves the purpose of raising the qualifications of the working class. The number of students in the schools for apprentices in industry totaled 41,564 in 1947, and 69,254 in 1948, that is, it increased 67 percent. Beside this, 31,000 skilled and 48,000 semiskilled workers have been qualified through courses.

Our universities and advanced schools have experienced a special development, which has created favorable conditions for scientific work and for the instruction of highly skilled personnel of the liberal professions. In 1947 there were 49 colleges and advanced schools, while in 1948 there were 62 colleges and advanced schools in the Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia, including the departments of the technical colleges in Belgrade, which have developed into departments of the School of Technology. A college of diplomacy and journalism has also been established in Yugoslavia for the first time. The Peoples' Republic of Macedonia and the Peoples' Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina have successfully developed their own universities, which more and more are becoming the centers of these republics in spite of the inadequate preparation and the scarcity of trained teaching personnel.

The number of students in all Yugoslav Universities in the school year 1947-48 totaled 46,432, and for the school year 1948-49 the number totaled 56,084. Twelve thousand students have enrolled for this school year, exceeding the enrollment plan, and an additional 7,000 special students have been registered. A defect in the work of Yugoslav universities is the small number of students studying for degrees. By granting scholarships the Government has made it possible to educate a great number of students. The number of scholarships granted to students has increased every year. For the 1947-48 school year there were 14,140 scholarship students, and for 1948-49, there are 22,000 scholarship students.

- 2 -

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In 1949, the government will build student housing in Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Skoplje, and Sarajevo to improve living conditions and work of our students. The sum of 625 million dinars has been allocated in the budget for this.

The year 1948 has brought a considerable rise in the cultural field. For example, the number of permanent theaters, of which there were 47 in 1947, rose to 50 in 1948, and the seating capacity in the theaters was increased from 29,373 to 31,543.

In 1947, 3,590,000 dinars were distributed as awards for artistic work to 260 authors, artists, actors, etc. In 1948, 6,933,000 dinars was distributed among 301 cultural workers.

The Yugoslav radio plays an important role in the political and cultural education of the people. The total power of all our stations amounted to 93.3 kilowatts in 1947, that is, 3.5 times more than in 1939. Sixteen radio stations with a total power of 167.1 kilowatts operate in Yugoslavia today. Of this number, 15 are in the medium band, and one is in the short-wave band. In 1939, the number of radio subscribers totaled 155,115, and today the number totals 253,976. This is small, but the number will increase constantly as Yugoslavia will soon begin domestic production of radio apparatus.

The Yugoslav film industry is showing perceptible success. The construction of Film City near Belgrade is creating favorable conditions for the production of domestic films.

In 1947, 13,301 middle-school examinations were taken by officers and noncommissioned officers in the Yugoslav Army. In the first 6 months of 1948 alone, 14,165 examinations were taken.

In 1947, 3,540 lectures on science and art were given to the officers in officers' quarters and clubs, and in the first 6 months of 1948, 1,761 lectures were given. In 1947, 2,880 cultural classes were held for officers, and in the first 8 months of 1948 alone, 2,136 were held. In 1947, over 70,000 lectures on general education subjects for soldiers were given. In 10 months of 1948, 48,630 cultural and recreational evenings were held for the soldiers in the Yugoslav Army, and 74,208 members of the Yugoslav Army participated in chess contests.

The officers and noncommissioned officers of the Yugoslav Army in 1948 alone bought over 1,303,879 copies of books and pamphlets from the army bookstore for their own personal libraries.

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- 3 -

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